



# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, May 20, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

## Giant African Snail Report:

There are no known Giant African snail populations established in the natural environment. All confirmations and reports involve snails held in captivity. Giant African snails have now been confirmed in the following states: Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Snails have been reported but not yet confirmed in other states, primarily in the Eastern Region. Each region has a person acting as coordinator for information collection, distribution and transfer.

Eastern Region: Calvin Shuler reports that, as of 5/12/2004, over 4000 seizures were made in the Eastern Region. Gary Simon (IN) reports that the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Officers in that state are now tasked with seizing giant African snails. These are to be brought to PPQ for identification and disposal. Camille Morris will be assuming the coordinator's role for the Eastern Region on 17 May 2004.

Western Region: Cliff Smith reported that the West has had only one confirmed detection, in Iowa. SITC personnel have found very little activity in that region, thus far.

National Plant Board members were able to conference with PPQ state, regional and national persons to discuss ideas on the problem of the snails, how to best communicate to the schools, the group that was universally acknowledged as the one of most pressing concern, and how state plant health directors and regulatory officials might best coordinate efforts to publicize the snail issue, as well as locate and collect the snails. Participants exchanged ideas and were able to benefit from discussion of the well-coordinated efforts of the Wisconsin SPHD and SPRO. All agencies within all states that have been affected have shown an exceptional degree of willingness to just do what is necessary to get the job done.

A toll-free number, 888-703-4457 (or locally, 301-436-3105), is now available to refer general inquiries and for public reporting of giant African snails. The number allows callers

to leave contact information for routing to the appropriate state officials.

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## ALB Critical Issues Report:

### New York:

The NY public outreach staff published their first issue of the "Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarterly Update". This report will be distributed throughout the NY project area to keep the public, industry, and local government informed about the latest accomplishments toward eradicating ALB from New York.

Chemical treatments are progressing in Manhattan and Queens. Treatments are scheduled to start in Brooklyn on May 17th and on Long Island on June 9th.

A selection was made for the USDA APHIS Supervisory Tree Climber. The selection process is under way for the tree climber staff.

### New Jersey:

A public outreach planning meeting was held this week with representatives from USDA APHIS PPQ ALB, USFS, NJ Department of Agriculture and NJ Department of Environmental Protection Division of Parks and Forests. Part of this group also met with the Liberty Science Center located in Jersey City, New Jersey. The Liberty Science Center has a grant from USFS to develop various outreach tools and media to educate the public on Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer. Once completed, the products will be displayed at the Center. The goal is to inform the more than one million guests that visit the center annually on these invasive species and their negative impact to the environment.

Due to contracting complications, the chemical treatment contract for NJ has not been awarded. Discussions were held this week with the contracting staff in MN to develop alternative actions in order to get a contract awarded within the next two weeks.

### Illinois:

The Chicago West and Chicago East treatment contracts continue to progress in Illinois. The Park Ridge contract is scheduled to begin May 17th.



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Interviews were conducted this week to hire the USDA APHIS tree climbers.

Pilot testing of the pocket PCs that will be used for capturing data in the detection and delimiting surveys began this week.

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## SOD Report:

Trace forward surveys continue and the national survey is underway as PPQ determines the distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum*. The number of confirmed positive facilities from the trace forward, national, and other surveys is 120 in 14 states.

The pathogen has been confirmed in plants traced forward from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler in 97 facilities in 14 states. The numbers of nurseries or garden centers with positive trace forward samples from the wholesaler by state are California (38), Alabama (1), Florida (5), Washington (6), Oregon (9), Texas (5), Colorado (1), Georgia (13), Louisiana (5), Maryland (1), North Carolina (9), New Mexico (1), Tennessee (2), and Virginia (1).

The ER reports that 5 states are conducting National Survey activities (AL, CT, FL, KY, MS and NC). The states have inspected 56 nurseries and collected 1645 samples; none have been confirmed positive. Six states are expected to start surveys this week (DE, GA, NJ, SC, TN and VA).

Fourteen states continue to impose quarantine regulations over and above those ordered by PPQ on California, and in some cases Oregon, Washington or British Columbia. North Carolina and Oregon have enacted regulations that parallel the PPQ emergency order.

LPA issued a press release on May 18 announcing the transfer of \$15.5 million in CCC funds to APHIS.

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